**THE UGLY DUCKLING**

It was a warm, sunny autumn day, and a Mother Duck sat warming her new eggs.

Suddenly, she noticed that one of the eggs had rolled away from the others.

Oh my, don't be in such a rush to hatch! You are not ready yet.

Mother Duck was so intent on caring for her eggs that she hadn't eaten or slept in days.

She couldn't wait to see her new ducklings.

Then one day, she saw one of the eggs begin to crack, and soon a charming little duckling waddled out of the broken shell.

The other eggs followed, and soon, almost all the eggs had hatched.

Quack-quack!!.. all except one.

There was still one egg left that showed no signs of hatching.

Mother Duck was very concerned.

Perhaps it's taking so long because this one will be the prettiest duckling of all!

The though comforted her, and she concentrated on keeping it warm and waiting patiently.

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A few days passed, and the egg began to crack.

The shell split, and her final duckling emerged.

Mother Duck was shocked when she saw him.

He was not like the other ducklings at all.

He was large, and ugly, and covered in dark grey fluff.

Mother Duck tried to stay calm.

It will be alright. He will become more beautiful when he grows up.

Days went by, but still the youngest duckling remained odd and not at all pretty.

All the other ducks, including his brothers and sisters, laughed at him and called him the ugly duckling.

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